

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-11 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
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R 012124Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1710
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02221

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

REF: USUN 1823

1. THE CANADIANS INVITED MISSION OFFICERS OF THE US, UK AND AUSTRALIA TO A MEETING LAST WEEK TO REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DECISION 9 PERTAINING TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. THE CANADIANS ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT THE TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION WHICH OTHER GOVERNMENTS INTEND TO SUBMIT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION TO DOCUMENT VIOLATIONS IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA AND WHAT TYPE OF ACTION WAS ENVISIONED FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

2. THE CANADIANS REPORTED THAT AS THE RESULT OF A HOUSE OF COMMONS MOTION OF APRIL 7 CONDEMNING THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD UNDERTAKEN A SERIES OF DEMARCHES IN CAPITALS. THE CANADIANS ALSO REPORTED THAT PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IS GROWING AND THE GOC IS BEING PRESSED FREQUENTLY TO REPORT ON WHAT ACTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION AND HAS
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ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PUT THE MATTER ON THE AGENDA OF THE 33D GA.

3. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ACTIONS INCLUDED A DEMARCHE IN PEKING IN WHICH THE GOC ASKED THE CHINESE TO TRANSMIT TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA A NOTE CONTAINING THE TEXT OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS MOTION. IN REPLY, THE GOVERNMENT

OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA RETURNED THE CANADIAN NOTE ACCOMPANIED BY A LENGTHY STATEMENT ATTACKING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CANADA AND SUGGESTING THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT "ASK THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT TO MOBILIZE ITS EFFORTS TO CLEAN ITS OWN STABLE AND TO BE AWARE THAT IT HAS NO RIGHT TO PLAY THE ROLE OF HUMANITARIAN APOSTLE WITH ITS HANDS STAINED BY THE BLOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA AND THAT THE TIME TO PLAY AT IMPERIALIST/COLONIALISTS HAS GONE FOREVER." THE FULL TEXT OF THE NOTE (IN FRENCH) IS BEING POUCHED TO IO/HR, HEWITT.

4. THE CANADIANS ARE PARTICULARLY INTEREST IN FINDING OUT WHAT TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION THE US AND OTHERS INTEND TO SUBMIT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION TO SUPPORT THE ACCUSATIONS MADE ABOUT THE SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. THEY REALIZE THAT PARLIAMENTARY MOTIONS ARE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE FACTUAL INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BUILD THE KIND OF CASE THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO INDUCE THE HRC TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION. THE CANADIANS HAVE SOME INFORMATION TO SUBMIT BUT ARE COUNTING ON THE UK, THE US AND PERHAPS AUSTRALIA TO PROVIDE THE BULK OF THE MATERIAL BASED ON EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF REFUGEES OR VISITORS. AUSTRALIA REPORTED THAT THEY HAVE INQUIRED BUT HAVE NO WORD AS YET FROM CANBERRA ON WHAT TYPE OF EVIDENCE WILL BE SUBMITTED. THE UK MISSION OFFICER
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STATED THAT THE UK HAS DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE IN WESTERN CAPITALS AND ASKED ITS MISSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO COLLECT ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION. WITH RESPECT TO THE REACTION OF THE GODK TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACTIONS, BOTH THE CANADIANS AND AUSTRALIANS REPORTED THAT THE CHINESE DELEGATION IN NEW YORK INFORMED THEM THAT THE COMMUNICATION DATED APRIL 22, 1978 AND CIRCULATED AS A UN DOCUMENT TO THE PERMANENT MISSIONS IN NEW YORK CONSTITUTES THE ONLY RESPONSE WHICH THE KAMPUCHEANS INTEND TO MAKE. (SEE REFTTEL.)

5. THE CANADIANS ALSO HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARIAT IN GENEVA THE QUESTION OF WHAT PROCEDURES WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN DEALING WITH THE MATERIAL SUBMITTED PERTAINING TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. THERE APPEARS TO BE A LACK OF CLEAR GUIDELINES EMANATING FROM THE SECRETARIAT AS TO WHETHER MATERIAL SUBMITTED MUST BE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED AS BEING SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISION 9. THE SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED THAT INFORMATION SUBMITTED WITHOUT REFERENCE TO DECISION 9 MIGHT HAVE TO BE SENT TO THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER THE 1503 PROCEDURES, THUS PRODUCING A SITUATION WHEREBY THE

CASE IS TREATED IN BOTH CONFIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC SESSION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT COMMENTS FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE CANADIANS ON THE EXTENT OF THE MATERIAL WE HAVE OR EXPECT TO SUBMIT PERTAINING TO THE SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPT THOUGHTS ON THE PREFERRED COURSE OF

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02221

ACTION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE CANADIANS REPORTED THAT THEY HOPE TO RESIST PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR ACTION AT THE GA AS THIS FORUM WITH ITS 149 MEMBERS IS FAR MORE UNPREDICTABLE AND DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. THEY FEAR AN ATTEMPT TO SPOTLIGHT DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA AT THE GA COULD LEAD TO SOME ACTION SUPPORTING OR EXONERATING THAT GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTE A SETBACK FOR THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THE UK AND AUSTRALIA ALSO REPORTED THAT THEY PREFER A LOW PROFILE AT THE GA AND FEEL THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PROVIDES A MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR ACTIONS SUCH AS THAT TAKEN AT THE LAST SESSION ON CAMBODIA AND UGANDA.
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